

REMARKS:

In the foregoing amendments, the limitations of claim 7 were inserted into claim 1 and claim 7 was canceled. Since these amendments place the application in condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) for the purposes of placing the application in condition for allowance or for the purposes of appeal.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application for consideration by the examiner. Claims 3 and 4 were allowed. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected over prior art. Claims 5-7 were not rejected over prior art. The Official action objected to these claims as containing allowable subject matter, and stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the foregoing amendments, the limitations of claim 7 were inserted into original claim 1, essentially rewriting claim 7 as an independent claim. Claims 2, 5 and 6 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1. Accordingly, these claims are allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In the amendments to claim 1, minor changes were made to the expressions set forth in previously presented claim 7. For example, the wording "the brake pressure" was changed to --the braking force of the brake--, and "the clutch pressure" was changed to --the engaging force of the clutch--. Since these expressions have similar meaning, the limitations indicated as being allowable in the outstanding Office action in claim 7 have essentially

been included in claim 1. For such reasons, applicant respectfully requests a formal allowance of claim 1, together with claims 2, 5 and 6 which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, as well as allowed claims 3 and 4.

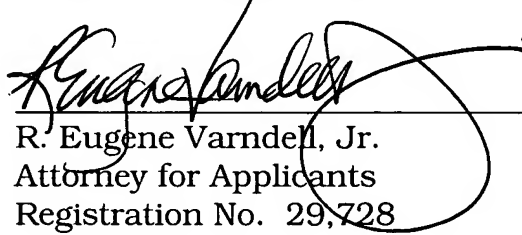
The Official action set forth a single rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,162,146 of Hoefling. This rejection is set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Official action. Since the limitations of previously presented allowable claim 7 were incorporated into original claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot.

Based on the above, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of or objection to claims 1-6 and formally allow these claims.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Official action mailed February 23, 2006. While it is believed that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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